

SEPARABLE KEY FOR ESTABLISHING DETACHABLE
PRINTER COMPONENT COMPATIBILITY WITH A PRINTER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A separable key element operably secured to a printer component base for
receiving a key from a printer component to be received therein. The key indicates a
required characteristic of the printer component thereby allowing only compatible printer
components to be installed onto the printer component base. The key element can
matingly engage the printer component base in a unique configuration such that only
10 compatible key elements can be secured to the printer component base. Moreover, the
key element can include a display surface for visually identifying the required
characteristic of the printer component. In a preferred embodiment, the printer
component is a detachable ink reservoir and the printer component base is secured to the
carriage of an inkjet printer, thereby providing an on-axis ink reservoir.

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